

THE NETWORK FOR ASIAN LIBERATION

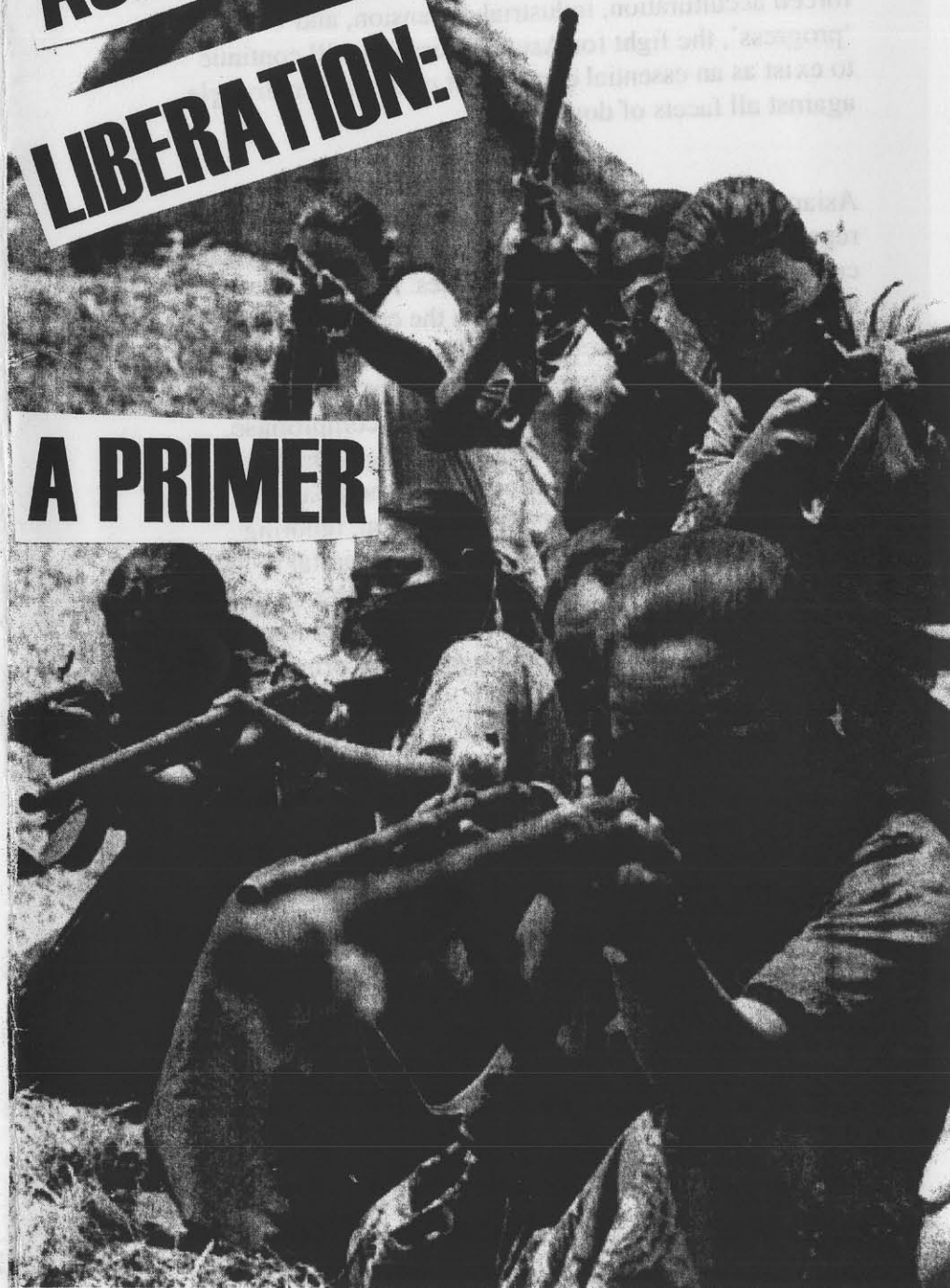


**TRANSCENDING THE MOVEMENT,
BUILDING A STRUGGLE!**

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ASIAN LIBERATION:

A PRIMER



WHAT IS ASIAN LIBERATION?

Asian Liberation is a struggle, not a movement!

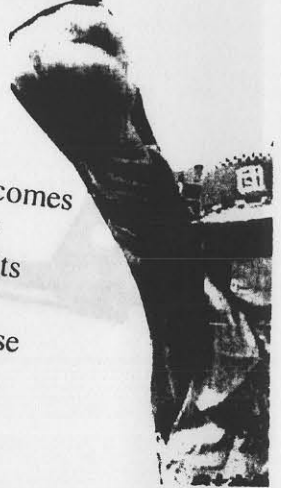
Movements disintegrate over time. But as long as humans and other living beings are killed for profit, forced acculturation, industrial expansion, and 'progress', the fight for Asian Liberation will continue to exist as an essential component of the larger *struggle* against all facets of domination.

Asian Liberation transcends the 'movements' that have repeatedly failed Asians within the dominant American culture and within their own cultures. Most of the predominant Asian movements in the culture at large are centered around Leftist politics, which draw on self-destructive tactics such as heavy centralization, organizational platforms, social reform, compromise, single-path revolutionary tactics, and dogmatism (to name just a few). Asian movements of the past have failed to critique the totality of oppression, ignoring critical aspects such as industrialism and capital in its entirety. It's time to build a struggle that is based on a critique of ALL the social institutions that encompass the totality of our oppression, targeting the prime factor of our subjugation, civilization.

The truth of the matter is that civilization is responsible for the social and ecological devastation witnessed throughout history. Through domestication, imperialist expansion, the birth of production, and modernization civilization has destroyed our relationships with nature and each other. The civilized way of life has eradicated countless numbers of Earth-based cultures which once lived in harmony with the world around them. From the beginning, these cultures, including many ancient Asian cultures, resisted civilization's domination by any means necessary. Thus, all those seeking genuine liberation from the dominant culture, including Asian peoples around the world, must make the 10,000-year old struggle against civilization the focal point of their own struggle.

For example, Vietnamese Americans are part of a different culture than that of Vietnamese living in Vietnam. Any study purporting to research the behavioral characteristics of Vietnamese people would be sorely lacking if it did not take into account the different cultures in which they live. This illustrates the need to make culture the primary unit of analysis since it is the most influential element shaping an individual's life.

With this understanding of cultural essentialism comes the need to comprehend cultural diversity. Every culture has heterogeneous aspects to it including its own subcultures. It is only by recognizing these elements that it is possible to understand the diverse forms of insurrectional resistance that spring from varied personal experiences.



MEANS OF BUILDING A STRUGGLE

The insurrectionary nature of Asian Liberation demands that each and every one of us takes the initiative to destroy the domination of our everyday lives. There is no sitting around for a revolution to happen. We don't need a highly organized army or a centralized one for that matter, but a resistant force consisting of only ourselves and our loved ones.

By operating on a non-hierarchical, non-centralized basis through anonymous guerrilla cells, the struggle for Asian Liberation will be indomitable. With security as the backbone to the resistance, we can be a disciplined and successful force for freedom for all beings.



VIOLENCE OR NON-VIOLENCE

One dualistic fallacy that leftists continue to perpetrate revolves around the endless debate between violent and non-violent tactics. Activists who claim that non-violent methods are the only legitimate means of struggle limit the periphery of resistance through a misguided and authoritarian moralism. Instead of this dualistic notion, the struggle for Asian Liberation presents a wholism, for when it comes to the question of violence or non-violence there is no split; they work as the yin and yang, an intertwining means of resistance.



Eastern cultures who have resisted civilization have successfully employed both violent and non-violent means. Instead of guiding its actions upon ideology, the struggle for Asian Liberation does not hesitate to utilize any techniques that will ultimately destroy the State and civilization.



DEMYSTIFICATION OF RACE AND THE NEED FOR CULTURAL ESSENTIALISM

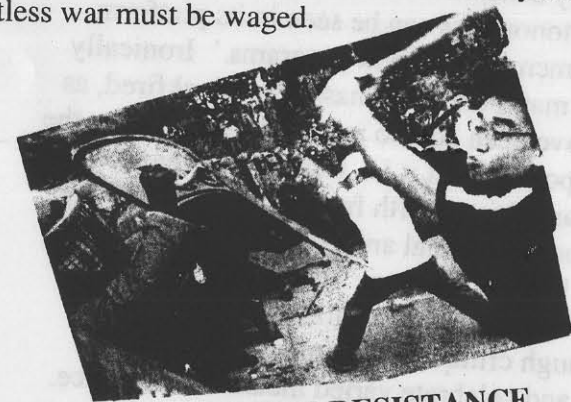
Asian Liberation does not seek freedom for a particular *race* of people, but rather focuses on the *cultural* struggles of those living throughout the Asian continent and those who have migrated from Asia to the West.

Race is a recent concept that has been imposed by the dominant culture to serve the interests of capital and the state. It has no biological basis and cannot be conclusively proven to exist. On the other hand, the concept of culture plays as an intrinsic role in a person's everyday life, for most aspects of how a person is raised are based upon their cultural upbringings, not racial upbringings.

For such a struggle to be successful, it must do without dogma and ideology – entrapments which only serve to

obstruct individual autonomy. Nevertheless, within the struggle for liberation, it is imperative to thoroughly study every element of domination, in its social and ecological forms. Any analysis aimed at liberation must pay special attention to civilization's impact on remaining Earth-based cultures as they are an important link to a more free way of life.

The struggle for Asian liberation must therefore consider these elements as they pertain to the social and ecological problems that Asian people around the world face. As this pamphlet is being written Asians are experiencing some of the most gruesome forms of exploitation and ecological devastation that modernity has to offer. On the Asian continent hunter-gatherers, horticulturalists and other Earth-based peoples are on the brink of extinction. The crisis that Asian peoples face is particularly dire at this moment of history and so a relentless war must be waged.



DISORGANIZING FOR THE RESISTANCE

The value of Asian Liberation cannot be measured in the numbers of its adherents, but rather in the ruthlessness and accuracy of its critique of our everyday lives. Asian Liberation is not only concerned with deconstructing civilization's objective institutions, but is also concerned with healing the subjective wounds it has inflicted on each and every one of us. Whether it is our jobs or the State, we must come to the realization that the institutions that have been forced upon us from

birth must be destroyed together with the alienation and disconnection that civilization has wrought.

For Asian Liberation to pose a bona fide threat it must eliminate all attempts at large-scale organization. Rather, we must fight this war with a small-scale, anti-authoritarian praxis alongside our loved ones in order to emphasize and unite our individual and collective liberatory desires.

So as to fulfill the aspirations of each individual in the struggle, the tactics of Asian Liberation must be insurrectionary rather than revolutionary. Insurrection starts with an analysis of the self while revolution springs from a reified concept of the 'masses.' Since insurrection is autonomous its tactics will necessarily be diverse – something that all those fighting for Asian Liberation must recognize.

Leftist politics is the antithesis of such a struggle. The Left is driven by adherence to ideology and the surrender of autonomy as can be seen in its platform politics and numerous '10 point programs.' Ironically this attempt to manipulate the masses has backfired, as most people have been able to recognize the Left for the banal form of politics that it is. Genuine resistance is multi-faceted and driven forth from a desire to destroy the causes of our emotional and physical suffering and thereby allow healing to occur. Every individual endures different aspects of civilization's domination and so a thorough critique must analyze its myriad ramifications and celebrate varied means of resistance.



TRANSCENDING DUALITY AND UTILITARIANISM

One of the most important ways in which civilization has colonized our minds is through the creation and reinforcement of dualistic and utilitarian thinking. Notions of "good vs. evil," "culture vs. nature," "subject vs. object" have served to justify exploitation and murder by those in power. These systems of thought view the 'Other' as a mere means to an end. Civilization views animals as machines existing only to serve its desires.

It views women as objects for male sexual pleasure. It views 'Third World' people as cheap sources of labor and 'First World' people as consumers. It views the Earth as dormant material waiting to be transformed into something useful. Anything which does not serve the ends of the machine it deems expendable.

Liberation must transcend such imperialistic thought processes and recover the wholistic worldviews of our Earth-based ancestors. Throughout history elements of Asian cultures have fervently opposed dualism and utilitarianism as can be seen in Taoism and Buddhism. These traditions represent key elements of the struggle against civilization by Asian people and can be helpful for all those struggling to decolonize their minds. In order for us to establish common bonds with each other and the land, we must all free our minds from the mentality of the machine.

